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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,614	12/14/2001	Friedhelm Eisenbeiss	MERCK 2337	3719

23599 7590 06/23/2003

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EXAMINER

NOLAND, THOMAS

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2856

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Art Unit: 2856

1. The preliminary amendment filed Dec. 17, 2001 has been entered.
2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
3. Appropriate and forms of the headings listed in paragraph 4 below must be inserted into the specification, preferably, by applicant.
4. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout and content for patent applications. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

The following order or arrangement is preferred in framing the specification and, except for the reference to the drawings, each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underling or bold type, as section headings. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) Title of the Invention.
- (b) Cross-Reference to Related Applications.
- (c) Statement Regarding Federally Sponsored Research or Development.
- (d) Reference to a "Sequence Listing," a table, or a computer program listing appendix submitted on compact disc (see 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5)).
- (e) Background of the Invention.
 1. Field of the Invention.
 2. Description of the Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.

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- (f) Brief Summary of the Invention.
- (g) Brief Description of the Several Views of the Drawing(s).
- (h) Detailed Description of the Invention.
- (I) Claim or Claims (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) Abstract of the Disclosure (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) Drawings.
- (l) Sequence Listing, if on paper (see 37 CFR 1.821-1.825).

5. The drawings are objected to because: in Fig. 2 the figures should be separately labeled as Fig. 2A and Fig. 2B; in Fig. 3 the figures should be separately labeled as Fig. 3A, Fig. 3B, Fig. 3C and Fig. 3D; and in Fig. 4 the figures should be separately labeled as Fig. 4A - Fig. 4F. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

6. Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

7. On page 12, 2nd paragraph-page 13, 2nd paragraph the fig numbers referred to should be amended to correspond to those in the proposed drawing correction required above.

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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9. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by TDB ACC-No: NN 72032862.

The intended use was given no weight.

10. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Elwenspoek et al, cited in IDS.

Note abstract, Fig. 13 and page 233, paragraph bridging first and 2nd columns. Fig. 13 shows both parallel and serial sections. Since in a microscopic system the valves and pumps could be considered as micro valves and micro pumps. Presumably the sealing of the pumps into the system is tight since leakage is undesirable.

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

12. Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elwenspoek et al in view of Parce et al WO 98/00231, cited in the IDS as Kopf.

Even if the pumps and valves taught in the microanalysis system of Elwenspoek et al are not microvalves Parce et al teaches on page 28, lines 25-32 that such are known expedients in such systems to assist in controlling flow in such systems and thus such would have been an obvious expedient to have used in Elwenspoek to help control the flow therein as desired.

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13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited reference show fluid channel systems and/or channeled analyzer systems.

14. Strand et al US 2002/0176804, not prior art, discloses a microfluidic substrate but does not claim a device for delivering sample volumes to a miniaturized analytical device with at least one channel section having at least one fluidic connection present at each end.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom Noland whose telephone number is (703) 305-4765. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 9:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Hezron E. Williams, can be reached on (703) 305-4705.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

6/20/03

Thomas P. Noland
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2856

Thomas Noland

T NOLAND/pj
06/13/03